

& Jaworski L.L.P. Account No.: 50-1212/UTSD:602. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

I. AMENDMENT

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

38. (Three Times Amended) A method of screening for modulators of a lipopolysaccharide mediated response comprising the steps of:

- a) obtaining a cell expressing a TLR-4 polypeptide;
- b) measuring a lipopolysaccharide mediated response mediated by the TLR-4 polypeptide;
- c) contacting the TLR-4 polypeptide with a putative modulator;
- d) assaying for a change in the lipopolysaccharide mediated response; and
- e) comparing the lipopolysaccharide mediated responses mediated by the TLR-4 polypeptide obtained in steps b) and d) above

wherein a difference in the lipopolysaccharide mediated responses indicates that the putative modulator is a modulator of a lipopolysaccharide mediated response.

II. RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

A. Telephone Interview

Applicants and Applicants' representative thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephonic interview of July 16, 2002. Applicants' representative and the Examiner discussed the role of TLR-4 in the LPS response and related issues regarding the pending claims.